AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising:

placing production data received from a client in a queue, the production data including production options for a target document identified by the client;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the production data held in the a queue, the production data to be delivered to a production device;

presenting the queue interface to a the client;

generating a status interface for the production device; and

presenting the status interface to the client.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising managing the production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the queue is capable of containing production data directed to more than one production device and wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface comprise generating and presenting the status interface for a production device selected through the queue interface.

5. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device.

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6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein:

the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page;

the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and

the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

8. (currently amended) A method for mediating access to production devices, comprising:

acquiring an access request for a production device, the access request originating from a client;

presenting to a the client a production interface for the production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production data;

placing in a queue production data received from the client and selected through the production interface;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the production data in the queue;

presenting the queue interface to a the client;

generating a status interface for the production device; and

presenting the status interface to the client.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page.

10. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the queue is capable of containing production data directed to more than one production device and wherein

the acts of generating and presenting the status interface comprise generating presenting the status interface for a production device selected through the queue interface.

11. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device.

12. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein:
the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page;
the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and
the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

14. (currently amended) A computer program product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for:
placing production data received from a client in a queue, the production data including production options for a target document identified by the client;
generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the production data held in the a queue, the production data to be delivered to a production device;
presenting the queue interface to a the client;
generating a status interface for the production device; and

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presenting the status interface to the client.

15. (original) The product of Claim 14, further comprising instructions for managing the production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface.

16. (original) The product of Claim 14, wherein the queue is capable of containing production data directed to more than one production device and wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface comprise instructions for generating presenting the status interface for a production device selected through the queue interface.

17. (original) The product of Claim 14, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise instructions for generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device.

18. (original) The product of Claim 14, wherein the instructions for presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

19. (original) The product of Claim 18 wherein:
the instructions for generating the queue interface comprise instructions for generating a queue interface in the form of a web page;
the instructions for generating the status interface comprise instructions for generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and
the instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

20. (currently amended) A computer program product for mediating access to production devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for:

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acquiring an access request for a production device, the access request originating from a client;

presenting to a the client a production interface for the production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production data;

placing in a queue production data received from the client and selected through the production interface;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the production data in the queue;

presenting the queue interface to a the client;

generating a status interface for the production device; and

presenting the status interface to the client.

21. (original) The product of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for generating the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page.

22. (original) The product of Claim 20, wherein the queue is capable of containing production data directed to more than one production device and wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface comprise instructions for generating presenting the status interface for a production device selected through the queue interface.

23. (original) The product of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise instructions for generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device.

24. (currently amended) The product of Claim 8 20, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

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25. (original) The product of Claim 24 wherein:

the instructions for generating the queue interface comprise instructions for generating the queue interface in the form of a web page;

the instructions for generating the status interface comprise instructions for generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and

the instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface comprise instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

26. (currently amended) In a computer network, a system for providing queue management and production device status, the system comprising:

one or more production devices, each production device having a production server operable to generate a status interface for the particular production device;

a client operable to display a user interface;

a mediation service in electronic communication with the client and the production device or devices, the mediation service operable to place production data received from the client in a queue, the production data including production options for a target document identified by the client, generate a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the production data to be delivered to one or more of the production devices and held in a the queue, present the queue interface to the client, and present to the client the status interface for a particular production device.

27. (original) The system of Claim 26, wherein the mediation service includes a queue manager operable to manage production data in the queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface.

28. (original) The system of Claim 26, wherein the mediation service includes an interface generator operable to present to the client the status interface for a production device identified through the queue interface.

29. (original) The system of Claim 28, wherein the interface generator is further operable to generate and present the queue and status interfaces in the form of a combined queue/status interface.

30. (original) The system of Claim 29, wherein:

at least one of the production servers includes a web server operable to generate the status queue in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and

the interface generator of the mediation service functions, at least in part, as a web server operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page having a first frame referencing the first network address and a second frame referencing the second network address.

31. (original) The system of Claim 26, further comprising an interface generator operable to present to the client the status interface for a production device once production data is delivered from the queue to that device.

32. (currently amended) In a computer network, a system for providing queue management and production device status, the system comprising:

one or more production devices each having a production server operable to generate a status interface and manage production of a target document for a particular production device;

a client operable to issue an access request for a selected production device and to display one or more interfaces;

a queue for storing production data;

an interface conduit in electronic communication with the client and the production server or servers, the interface conduit operable to acquire the access request originating from the client, present to the client a production interface for the production device to which the request is directed, and to place in the queue

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production data received from the client and selected through the production interface;

a queue manager operable to deliver production data from the queue to the production server for the production device to which that production data is to be delivered; and

an interface generator operable to generate and present to the client a queue interface and to present to the client the status interface for a particular production device.

33. (original) The system of Claim 32, wherein the interface generator is further operable to present to the client the status interface for a production device identified through the queue interface.

34. (original) The system of Claim 33 wherein the interface generator is further operable to present the queue and status interfaces in the form of a combined queue/status interface.

35. (original) The system of Claim 34, wherein:

the interface generator and at least one of the production servers each function, at least in part, as a web server;

the production server being further operable to generate the status interface in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and

the interface generator being further operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page referencing the first and second network addresses.

36. (original) The system of Claim 32, wherein the interface generator is further operable to present the status interface for that production device once that production data is delivered.

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37. (original) The system of Claim 36, wherein:

the interface generator and at least one of the production servers function at least in part as web servers;

the production server being further operable to generate the status interface in the form of a first web page; and

the interface generator being further operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a second web page.

38. (original) The system of Claim 32, wherein the queue manager is further operable to manage production data in the queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface.

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